

null
Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:22:01 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable
Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 05, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2175 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: ELAB, PREL, PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, CVIS
Captions: None
Subject: UAE EXTENDS AMNESTY
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02175

SIPDIS
Laser1:
INFO: FCS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: P/M AMB DCM POL

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RAALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON: GARANA
CLEARED: ECON: TEWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI258
RR RUEHC RUCPDOC RUEHZM RUEHTU
DE RUEHAD #2175 1251002
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 051002Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9790
INFO RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0508

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 002175

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, DRL AND EB/CBA
STATE PASS OPIC/OPIC INTERNATIONAL POLICY DEPARTMENT
FOR VIRGINIA GREEN AND CONSTANCE SHINN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS HOLD FOR FSI: OLIVER JOHN
USDOC FOR 4530/ITA/MAC/ONE/DGUGLIELMI,
4520/ITA/MAC/ONE/CLOUSTAUNAU,
4500/ITA/MAC/DAS/WILLIAMSON,
3131/CS/OIO/ANESA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [CVIS](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE EXTENDS AMNESTY

REF: A) ABU DHABI 1634
B) ABU DHABI 1946

1. (U) The UAEG announced that it has extended the

amnesty period for illegal aliens to depart the country without penalty an additional month. (See ref A). The four month amnesty period was scheduled to end on April 30, but officials have given illegal aliens until May 31 to leave the UAE. The official Ministry of Interior announcement declared, "Due to a large increase in illegal entrants applying at immigration offices to leave the UAE and because of humanitarian reasons, the cabinet decided to extend the amnesty by one month until the end of May." Local press emphasized the humanitarian angle of the decision, extensively quoting laudatory statements from diplomats whose nationals are the primary targets of the amnesty -- Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Indians.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Notwithstanding any official statements about the humanitarian nature of the extension, the amnesty has failed to live up to expectations and the UAEG had little recourse but to extend it in the hopes that more illegals would leave the country. (See ref B). During the original four month period, only 66,595 illegals applied for amnesty -- far less than the expected 200,000-250,000. A one-month extension will have no significant impact on the overall numbers unless and until the UAE demonstrates -- as it has yet to do -- that it is serious about cracking down on illegals. For many illegal expatriates here, the penalty for being caught outside the amnesty program is little different from the terms of the amnesty -- detention, deportation and a ban on returning to the UAE to work. End comment.

Wahba